

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An information management method comprising steps of:
assigning a first user a unique user identifier;
storing information related to the a first user in a remote first database operatively coupled to a remote first computer, the first user being identified by a user identifier; and
enabling a plurality of second users to access the remote first database over a network using a second computer to retrieve the information related to the first user by entering the unique user identifier;
establishing a second database of user information in the second computer;
inserting information related to the first user into the second database of the second computer;
enabling the first user to edit the information related to the first user stored in the first database;
updating information related to the first user in the second database of the second computer by accessing information in the first database; and
allowing the second user to access the updated information related to the first user.
2. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning includes a step of further comprising providing the first user with a bar code representation of the unique user identifier.
3. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 2, further comprising a step of printing characters representative of the unique user identifier on a document.
4. (original) The information management method of claim 3, wherein the document is a business card.
5. (original) The information management method of claim 3, wherein the step of printing includes a step of printing the bar code on the document.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 6 1, wherein the second computer accesses the ~~remote~~ first computer database over the Internet.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 1, ~~wherein the second computer includes a second database, and the method further includes comprising a step of synchronizing information in the second database with information contained in the~~ remote first database.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing includes a step of storing an authorized access list with the information for the first user, the authorized access list containing a list of users having authorized access to the information for the first user, and wherein the step of enabling access includes a step of checking whether ~~one of the plurality of second users~~ the second user is on the authorized access list for the first user.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An information management system comprising:
a ~~remote~~ first computer;

a ~~remote~~ first database operatively coupled to the ~~remote~~ first computer, the ~~remote~~ first database containing contact information for each of a plurality of users of the information management system, wherein each of the users is ~~assigned a unique-~~ identified by a user identifier, and the information for each user is stored along with the ~~unique~~ user identifier of the user in the ~~remote~~ first database;

wherein the ~~remote~~ first computer includes:

a network interface module that interfaces with a network to allow users of the information management system to access the ~~remote~~ first computer;

a database interface module that coordinates transfer of data between the ~~remote~~ first database and the ~~remote~~ first computer;

an application module containing instructions to enable a network user to access the ~~remote~~ first database over the network using a second network computer to retrieve information in the ~~remote~~ first database related to a first user ~~by entering the unique user identifier, to enable the first user to edit the information related to the first user stored in the first database; and to enable access to the edited information in the first database to update the information related to the first user in a second database of a second computer.~~

13. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module further includes instructions to provide the first user with a bar code representation of the ~~unique~~ user identifier.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) An information management system comprising:
~~means for assigning a first user a unique user identifier;~~
means for storing information related to ~~the~~ a first user in a ~~remote~~ first database operatively coupled to a ~~remote~~ first computer, ~~the first user being identified by a user identifier;~~
means for enabling a second user to access the first database over a network using a second network computer to retrieve the information related to the first user ~~by entering the unique user identifier;~~
means for establishing a second database of user information in the second computer;
means for inserting information related to the first user into the second database of the second computer;
means for enabling the first user to edit the information related to the first user stored in the first database;

means for updating information related to the first user in the second database of the second computer by accessing information in the first database; and

means for allowing the second user to access the updated information related to the first user.

18. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for providing the first user with a bar code representation of the ~~unique~~ user identifier.

19-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the second network computer includes a second database, and the management system further includes means for synchronizing information in the second database with information contained in the ~~remote~~ first database.

22. (original) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the means for storing includes means for storing an authorized access list with the information for the first user, the authorized access list containing a list of users having authorized access to the information for the first user, and wherein the means for enabling access includes means for checking whether the second user is on the authorized access list for the first user.

23. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for enabling the first user to access the ~~remote~~ first computer over a network using a first network computer to edit the information related to the first user stored in the ~~remote~~ first database.

24. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 1 wherein the identifier includes an alphanumeric identification code.

25. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising registering as a new user by entering contact data associated with the unique user identifier of the new user, the contact data including at least one of an email address, a name, a telephone number, an address, a title, and a facsimile number.

26. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 25 wherein registering includes designating a registration type including but not limited to a professional, a corporation, and an individual.

27. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 25 further comprising verifying the registration of a new user by matching the email address as a unique user identifier against existing contact information in the ~~remote~~ first database.

28. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising designating the information related to the first user as blocked to deny access to the information by the plurality of second users.

29. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising designating the information related to the first user as publicly accessible.

30. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising entering an identifier to allow a plurality of privileged users access to the stored information, wherein the privileged users comprise at least one of the plurality of second users.

31. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 14 13 wherein the second database includes a synchronizer for synchronizing information between the second database of the network computer and the ~~remote~~ first database.

32. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 12 wherein the application module includes instructions to establish account preferences related to the information on the ~~remote~~ first database related to the first user.

33. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 34 32 wherein the account preferences include at least one of public access, limited access, and blocked access.

34. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 1 further comprising assigning a second ~~unique~~ user identifier to one of the plurality of second users and providing access to the ~~remote~~ first database by one of the plurality of second users using the second ~~unique~~ user identifier.

35. (previously presented) The information management system of claim 17, further comprising means for receiving contact information from and providing contact information to the second user over the Internet.

36. (previously presented) The information management system of claim 17, wherein the means for storing contains for the second user a blocked list that identifies blocked users that are not authorized to access contact information of the first user.

37. (previously presented) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to designate the information related to the first user as blocked to deny access to the information by at least one of the plurality of users.

38. (previously presented) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to designate the information related to the first user as publicly accessible.

39. (currently amended) The information management system of claim 12, wherein the application module includes instructions to allow a plurality of privileged users access to the information in the ~~remote~~ first database, the plurality of privileged users comprising at least one of the plurality of users of the information management system.